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MONTANA SCHOOLS

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HARRIET MILLER
Superintendent

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MAIN CURRENTS IN MONTANA EDUCATION is the theme of the 11th Annual Administrators' Conference called by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Harriet Miller for April 20-21 at Helena. Program will focus on the National Defense Education Act of 1958 and its implications for Montana. Highlights . . .

a report on a current study by the American Association for the Advancement of Science on preparation of high school science and mathematics teachers, presented by Dr. K. L. Agre, physicist and researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the national study committee. . .

a discussion of the teaching of foreign languages in elementary school, including training of elementary teachers for language instruction, by Dr. Thora Sorenson, Professor of Spanish at Montana State University, one of the pioneers in this field in Montana. . .

an insight into studies now in progress across the nation to revolutionize high school mathematics teaching, by Dr. Max Beberman of University High School, University of Illinois, one of the centers actively reviewing concepts of high school mathematics.

Conference emphasis on mathematics, science and modern foreign languages corresponds to N.D.E.A., which earmarks more than half of the program's funds for these three subjects. Other phases of N.D.E.A. will also be discussed -- guidance, counselling and testing, vocational education and statistical services.

New school budget forms, a first step toward improving Montana's statistical services under N.D.E.A., will be introduced at the Conference.

"A New Market For Your Talents" will be presented at the Conference Banquet by W. Preston (Luke) Wright, Great Falls Tribune Capitol Correspondent.

Special program for County Superintendents on April 22 will feature rural school curriculum. Budget, transportation and certification workshops are planned.

MONTANA'S PLANS FOR THE SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT to be administered by the State Superintendent and Board of Education are among the first in the nation to gain approval by the U. S. Office of Education. . . . The Guidance, Counselling and Testing portion of N.D.E.A. already is being implemented in Montana, with many high schools participating this spring. . . . New school budget forms for 1959-60 are in preparation under the Statistical Services program. . . . Total program will go into effect July 1.

SPRING CALENDAR . . . April 8, Mathematics Curriculum Committee, Billings. . . April 11, Future Farmers of America Public Speaking Finals, Helena. . . April 12-18, National Library Week. . . April 14-20, Pan American Week. . . April 17-18, English Curriculum Committee, Billings. . . April 24-25, Montana Reading Council, Helena. . . April 25, School Library Committee, Helena. . . May 1-2, Language Arts Curriculum Committee, Glendive. . . May 9, Modern Foreign Language Teachers Association, Bozeman.

Reminder: English Course of Study Questionnaires, grades 9-12, are due at the State Office by May 1.

FIRST WORLD FORUM OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION, April 12-19, Las Vegas, will be attended by five Montanans: William L. Erickson, State High School Supervisor; Mrs. W. G. Nelson, President, Montana P.T.A.; D. D. Cooper, Executive Secretary, M.E.A.; S. O. Hefty, President, Montana Assn. of School Administrators; and Duane Taft, Dean of Education, Northern Montana College.

EDUCATION BILLS reviewed in the recent Legislative Edition of MONTANA SCHOOLS which subsequently were vetoed by Governor J. Hugo Aronson are those which would have. . . .

Substituted a fifteen-mill county levy for the present five-mill district levy and ten-mill county levy now required for support of elementary schools under the Foundation Program. (Senate Bill 169.)

Established a Commission on School District Reorganization to make a study and present to the 1961 Legislature proposals for changing the organization of school districts in Montana. (House Bill 306.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS RE: SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, recently issued; Volume 27 . . .

No. 73. Purchase of Land for Athletic Field -- Elections. Held:
1. The trustees of a school district may purchase land to be used as an athletic field and playground providing they do so after submitting the question to the electors of the district and receive an approving vote of a majority of those voting at the election.
2. The trustees of a school district maintaining a high school may purchase land for school purposes which is contiguous to land on which is located a high school building without submitting the question of the purchase at an election.

No. 79. Fees to County Clerk for Bond Election. Held:
1. The county clerk and recorder may not receive compensation for checking and certifying a petition for a school district bond election.
2. The county clerk and recorder shall receive five cents per name for the preparation of registration lists and poll books and that such compensation is limited to payment for each name not withstanding the fact each name appears twice, once in the registration lists and again in the poll books.
3. All printing and publication costs for a bond election must be paid by the school district.